

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 AEC-11 COME-00 SCCT-02

AID-20 IO-14 MC-02 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 041546Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6823

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0398

E.O. 71652: N/A

TAGS: GJ PINS PINT

SUBJ: BARBADOS POLICE

RELEASE GRENADA ARMS SHIPMENT

REF: BTN 0370

SUMMARY: BARBADOS POLICE RELEASE GRENADA-BOUND ARMS SHIPMENT.
GOG DENIES WEAPONS INTENDED FOR ITS USE. NJM LEADER SEEKING
SUPPORT FROM THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES

TO BLOCK GRENADA'S ADMISSION TO UN. CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN GRENADA COMPLAINS OF THREATS AND GOVERNMENT HARRASSMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. GRENADA-BOUND ARMS SHIPMENT IMPOUNDED BY BARBADOS POLICE
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FEBRUARY 27 HAS BEEN RELEASED FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO GRENADA.

ACCORDING TO BARBADOS POLICE, SHIPMENT INCLUDED EIGHT CRATES RIFLES AND ONE CRATE PISTOLS OF VARYING CALIBER, TOTALING 200 WEAPONS, ALL APPARENTLY MADE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WEAPONS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SHIPPED FROM HAMBURG, GERMANY BY REGULAR COMMERCIAL FREIGHTER TO ST. LUCIA, WHERE THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO CHARTER AIR SERVICE FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO GRENADA BECAUSE PORT WORKERS STRIKE HAS CLOSED PORT TO LARGER SHIPS. CHARTER PILOT FLEW TO BARBADOS FEBRUARY 27 ENROUTE FROM ST. LUCIA TO GRENADA TO PICK UP THREE ADDITIONAL CRATES CONTAINING NEW GRENADA PASSPORTS. PILOT APPARENTLY BECAME SUSPICIOUS ABOUT CONTENTS OF CRATES AND FACT THEY WERE NOT PROPERLY MANIFESTED AND ALERTED BARBADOS CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

2. BARBADOS POLICE AGREED TO RELEASE SHIPMENT AFTER OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM GRENADA POLICE COMMISSIONER. SHIPMENT CONSIGNED

TO GRENADA FIRM LICENSED TO IMPORT GUNS. FIRM AND GRENADA POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT SHIPMENT INTENDED FOR GRENADA GOVERNMENT.

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN PORT-OF-SPAIN MARCH 2, NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT COORDINATING SECRETARY MAURICE BISHOP CALLED ON CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS TO REFUSE DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GAIRY GOVERNMENT. BISHOP ALSO SAID NJM HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM ONE MEMBER OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THREE KEY MEMBERS OF AFRICAN, ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN BLOC TO HAVE GRENADA SITUATION BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF UN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THAT NJM SEEKING SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO BLOCK GRENADA'S PROPOSED APPLICATION TO UN BECAUSE OF GOG'S ALLEGED DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. BISHOP SAID SITUATION IN GRENADA HAD WORSENERD SINCE INDEPENDENCE WITH KNOWN OPPONENTS OF GOG CONSTANTLY INTIMIDATED AND HARRASSED. IN FACE OF THIS REPRESSION, BISHOP SAID, GRENADIANS HAD INCREASED THEIR RESISTANCE AND IN SOME INSTANCES HAD BEEN PROMPTED TO "SPONTANEOUS OUTBURSTS OF VIOLENCE." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT NJM NOT PREPARED TO ADVOCATE VIOLENCE AND STILL CONSIDERED PEACEFUL SOLUTION POSSIBLE. HE STATED THAT CONTINUING EMBARGO ON OIL SHIPMENTS TO GRENADA IS CRUCIAL TO ANTI-UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT STRUGGLE AND THAT SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION, WHICH CALLED FOR BOYCOTT, REMAINED RESOLUTE IN ITS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE SHUTDOWN OF PORT. BISHOP SAID NJM WOULD

WELCOM ELECTION CONTEST WITH GAIRY PROVIDED IT WERE IMPARTIALLY AND INDEPENDENTLY SUPERVISED.

5. "THE CATHOLIC VOICE" PUBLISHED BY RC CHURCH IN BARBADOS AND

PRESS BOTH REPORT THAT GRENADA'S BISHOP PATRICK WEBSTER WAS FORCED TO CLOSE ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH IN SAUTEUR BECAUSE OF REPEATED THREATS AGAINST PARISH PRIEST. IN RECENT WEEKS POLICE SEARCHES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MADE OF PRESENTATION COLLEGE, AN RC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ST. GEORGE'S, AND OTHER CHURCH-OWNED BUILDINGS. GRENADA POLICE OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT SOME CATHOLIC TEACHERS HAVE INCITED ANTI-GOVERNMENT RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND HAVE EVEN TAUGHT GUERRILLA WARFARE TACTICS TO THEIR STUDENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL REPRESSION, ARMS SHIPMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LABOR STRIKES, EMBARGOES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE00398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740371/aaaacody.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BTN 0370
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARBADOS POLICE RELEASE GRENADA ARMS SHIPMENT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005